

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the Application and are subject to restriction in the Office action mailed February 11, 2008. Claims 1-11, 24, and 25 are cancelled by this amendment, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 12 and 16 have been amended and new claims 26-34 are added herein. Claims 12 and 16 are independent claims from which claims 13-15 and 26-31, and claims 17-23 and 32-34 depend, respectively.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending claims 13-23, and consideration of new claims 26-34, in light of the following remarks.

Restriction Requirement

Pending claims 1-25 were subject to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §1.121 in the Office action mailed February 11, 2008. The Office identified four inventions: Invention I consisting of claims 1-11, Invention II consisting of claims 12-15, Invention III consisting of claims 16-23, and Invention IV consisting of claims 24 and 25.

Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-11, 24, and 25, without prejudice or disclaimer, and expressly reserve the right to re-file claims 1-11, 24, and 25 in a later-filed continuing application.

Applicants have amended claims 12 and 16, as shown above, and respectfully request that the restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Newly Added Claims

Applicants have added new claims 26-34. Applicants respectfully submit that support for new claims 26-34 may be found, at least, in paragraphs [0006], [0053]-[0055], [0104]-[0119], and [0125] of the Application. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 26-34 do not add new matter.

Conclusion

In general, the Office action makes various statements regarding the claims that are now moot in light of the above. Thus, Applicants will not address such statements at the present time. However, Applicants expressly reserve the right to challenge such statements in the future should the need arise (e.g., if such statements should become relevant by appearing in a rejection of any current or future claim).

An early Office Action on the merits and allowance of claims 12-23 and 26-34 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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